

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS YVONNE B. BURKE AND
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY**

JULY 29, 2008

In the State of California, nearly one-third of those eligible to vote, some 7.2 million citizens, are not registered to do so. Among young people, the participation rate is even lower – barely half of those eligible voters between the age of 18 and 24 registered in 2004, driving California down to 36th place in the nation for turnout among young voters.

Assembly Bill 1819, sponsored by Assemblymember Curren D. Price, Jr., would promote greater voter participation by engaging young citizens in the political process at an early age. The bill's provisions permit 16-year-olds to pre-register to vote if they otherwise comply with all necessary requirements. At that age, young people could submit their completed voter registration forms, but the registration would only become effective when the prospective voters turn 18. At that time, the individual would begin receiving sample ballots and other materials for the first election in which they are eligible to participate.

-M-O-R-E-

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
BURKE	_____

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS YVONNE B. BURKE AND ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
JULY 29, 2008
PAGE TWO**

In order to minimize the costs of this program, AB 1819 would not take effect until the Secretary of State certifies that California has established a statewide voter registration database that complies with the federal Help America Vote Act.

At least nine other states have initiated pre-registration programs for young citizens who have not yet attained voting age. In order to engage our youth in the electoral process and help foster a lifelong commitment to active political participation, California should join in this effort to increase voter registration opportunities and enhance voter awareness.

AB 1819 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee next Monday, August 4th. Board action today is thus a matter of some urgency.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS affirms its support for AB 1819, and further, that it directs the Chief Executive Office through its Intergovernmental Relations Branch to actively promote the enactment of AB1819.

#

YBB:KK:nra (AB1819 motion 072908)